REMARKS

Please reconsider the application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks. Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the application.

Status of the Claims

Claims 1-20 are all the claims pending in the application. Of those, claims 1, 8, and 15 are independent. The remaining claims depend, directly or indirectly, from claims 1, 8, and 15.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Specifically, the Examiner objected to the manner in which "obtain" is used in claims 1, 8, and 15. Those claims have been amended to more clearly recite that the value is retrieved from the received packet itself, and that the selected rule is associated with the retrieved value. As amended, claims 1, 8, and 15 comply with the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,848,233 ("Radia"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1, 8, and 15 each recite associating rules with possible values for a characteristic (i.e. presorting rules). Upon receipt of a packet, the packet is analyzed and a value is retrieved. Based on the retrieved value and the rule associated with that value, a rule is selected and applied to the packet.

Radia discloses applying filter rules to incoming packets. Which set of filter rules is applied is triggered by a network event, such as a login. Examiner asserts that an event such as a

login includes receiving and analyzing packets. However in Radia, any analysis of those packets determines the set of rules to be applied to *future* packets, not the same packets being analyzed. In contrast, the present invention, as recited in claims 1, 8, and 15, applies presorted filter rules to a received packet based on a value retrieved from that *same* received packet, not to future packets.

In view of the above, Radia neither shows nor suggests the present invention as recited in claims 1, 8, and 15. Thus, claims 1, 8, and 15 are patentable over Radia. Dependent claims are allowable for at least the same reasons. Accordingly, removal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

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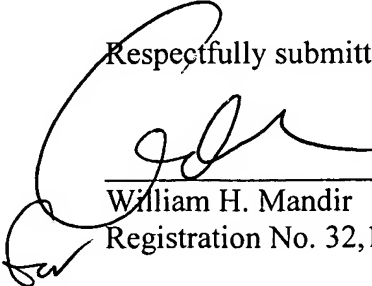
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